

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed March 17, 2004. Claims 8 to 14, 21 and 23 stand allowed. Claims 5 to 7 and 20 stand canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$55.00 is submitted herewith to cover the cost of the Terminal Disclaimer. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency or credit.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1 and 15 to 19 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1 to 6 of U.S. Patent No. 6,640,976. Accordingly, Applicants are hereby submitting a Terminal Disclaimer as indicated in the Office Action to overcome these rejections over U.S. Patent No. 6,640,976.

The Office Action objected to Claims 2 to 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Office Action indicated that Claims 2 to 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants respectfully submit that as the submitted Terminal Disclaimer will overcome the rejection of the base Claim 1 from which Claims 2 to 4 depend, Claims 2 to 4 are allowable and do not need to be rewritten in independent form.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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